

Appl. No. 10/660,027
Response dated 09/26/2006
Reply to Office Action of 06/26/2006

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REMARKS

In this Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 11 because of its dependency. Claims 1, 5, 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bott et al. Claims 2 – 4, 6, 7, 9 – 11, 13 – 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bott et al. in view of Grossman et al.

In response to the 102(b) rejection, Applicants have amended the independent claims (i.e., Claims 1, 8 and 15) to include the limitations of having "an icon representing a folder migrate toward a pointing device." Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12 – 14 and 16 – 20 are canceled and new Claims 21 – 23 are added for consideration. No new matter is introduced in the Application since support for the added limitations can be found on page 1, lines 14 – 24 and page 12, line 29 to page 13, line 9. Note that in the process of canceling some of the claims, the dependency of Claim 11 is changed to Claim 8. Thus, the objection to Claim 11 becomes moot.

By this Amendment therefore, Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18 and 21 – 23 are pending in the Application. For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As disclosed in the SPECIFICATION, when a user decides to open a file, for example, using an icon displayed on a desktop that represents a file, the user has to first select the icon. This may be done using a pointing device, such as a mouse pointer for instance. In cases where there is a large number of icons on the desktop, the user may have difficulty selecting the icon in question from the rest of the icons on the desktop. Thus, there is a need for method of facilitating an icon selection among a plurality of icons on a desktop.

The present invention provides such a method. Specifically, the present invention provides a method of having an icon or group of icons on a desktop
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migrate toward a pointing device. For example, when a user enters a file extension in a box, it is compared with the extensions of all the files that are represented by an icon on the desktop. All the icons that represent files with the entered file extension will migrate toward the mouse pointer.

In cases, where folders are displayed on the desktop, the folders may also migrate toward the mouse pointer if a file or an icon of a file contained therein has the same file extension as the extension entered by the user. The folders will also migrate toward the mouse pointer if they contain a folder in which a file or an icon of a file with the same file extension as the one entered is stored therein. When a folder is opened, all items in the folder that have a file extension in common with the file extension entered by the user will again migrate toward the mouse pointer. This scenario will be repeated each time the invention is in use and a folder is opened.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

1. A method of facilitating an icon selection on a desktop, the desktop being a screen of a computer system that simulates an office desktop on which various objects represented each by an icon are displayed, the various objects including a file folder within which at least one icon representing a file with an extension is stored, the method comprising the steps of:

enabling a user to enter a file extension, the file extension being an extension of a file being represented by an icon to be selected;

comparing the entered file extension with file extensions of all files represented by an icon on the desktop, including the file extension of the file stored in the file folder, **to determine icons to migrate toward a pointing device, the pointing device for selecting one of the migrated icons;** and

migrating the icon representing the file folder toward the pointing device if, based on the comparing step, the file extension of the file stored in the file folder is equal to the file extension entered, thereby facilitating the icon selection of the icon

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representing the file stored in the migrated file folder.
(Emphasis added.)

Independent Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by Bott et al. Applicants submit that, as amended, the claims are patentable over Bott et al.

Bott et al. purport to provide a method of finding files or folders by names in a Windows® 98 operating system. Accordingly, Bott et al. disclose that to search for a file or folder, a user needs to select "find" from the start button of Windows® 98 or from the tools option of Windows Explorer. After selecting "find" the user needs to enter the name or part thereof of the file or folder. Then, a search will be undertaken to find all files whose name begins with the name or part of the name entered by the user, for example. To do so, the system compares the part of the name entered with the first part of the names of the files in the computer system. All files whose name begins with the part of the name entered by the user will be displayed in a window for the user to choose the one desired.

However, Bott et al. do not teach, show or so much as suggest the steps of comparing entered file extension with file extensions of all files represented by an icon on the desktop, including the file extension of the file stored in the file folder, ***to determine icons to migrate toward a pointing device, the pointing device for selecting one of the migrated icons; and migrating the icon representing the file folder toward the pointing device if, based on the comparing step, the file extension of the file stored in the file folder is equal to the file extension entered, thereby facilitating the icon selection of the icon representing the file stored in the migrated file folder*** as claimed.

Independent Claim 15 was rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bott et al. in view of Grossman et al. Again, Applicants submit that, as amended, Claim 15 is patentable over Bott et al. in view of Grossman et al.

Claim 15 is a system claim of equivalent scope as the method claim reproduced above. Consequently, just as in the case of Claim 1, Bott et al. do
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not processed code data to compare entered file extension with file extensions of all files represented by an icon on the desktop, including the file extension of the file stored in the file folder, *to determine icons to migrate toward a pointing device, the pointing device for selecting one of the migrated icons; and to migrate the icon representing the file folder toward the pointing device if, based on the comparing step, the file extension of the file stored in the file folder is equal to the file extension entered, thereby facilitating the icon selection of the icon representing the file stored in the migrated file folder* as stated in Claim 15, nor do Grossman et al.

Grossman et al. teach a method of facilitating the selection of icons displayed on a screen. Accordingly, Grossman et al. teach a method of determining which ones of a plurality of icons displayed on a screen are next likely to be used. Those icons which are next likely to be used are automatically moved towards a cursor located on the computer display. Those icons that are next likely to be used are selected based on a predefined likeliness criterion which may be updated.

However, just as in the case of Bott et al., Grossman et al do not teach the steps of comparing entered file extension with file extensions of all files represented by an icon on the desktop, including the file extension of the file stored in the file folder, *to determine icons to migrate toward a pointing device, the pointing device for selecting one of the migrated icons; and migrating the icon representing the file folder toward the pointing device if, based on the comparing step, the file extension of the file stored in the file folder is equal to the file extension entered, thereby facilitating the icon selection of the icon representing the file stored in the migrated file folder* as claimed.

Consequently, Applicants submit that the pending claims (i.e., Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18 and 21 – 23) are allowable over the applied references. Hence, Applicants once more respectfully request reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the pending claims in the application.

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